Collected by:

Mrs. David McQueen

Edmonton Journal, Feb. 3, 1941.

COLIN FRASER

Obituary: Colin Fraser, fur trader, died on Feb. 3, 1941, at Ft. Chipewyan, aged 91 years. Left surviving, his wife, Flora Fraser, two daughters, Mrs. Lovisa Wylie of Chipewyan and Mrs. Mary Miller of Victoria, and three sons, James, Roderick and Fred, all of Chipewyan, and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral will be held at Chipewyan on Wednesday, the 5th of February.

COLIN FRASER, FRONTIERSMAN

There has never been anyone who was more completely a western Canadian than Colin Fraser, news of whose death reached Edmonton yesterday.

For all of his 92 years Mr. Fraser had had his home in what is now Alberta. He was born at Jasper House, the name of which was given many decades later to the area round about on its being converted into a national park. Soon he had many exploits to his credit as a buffalo hunter and scout and he became a leading figure as a fur trader. How early a resident he was of Edmonton is shown by the fact that Jasper Avenue East cuts through what was his homestead. But, when settlement began on a large scale, he preferred to remain a frontiersman and for a long while past he has lived at Fort Chipewyan, on Lake Athabaska. There he opened a trading post which his sons are operating still.

Northerners thought a great deal of Mr. Fraser. No one who had met him could fail to have the pleasantest recollections of the experience. On his visits to the city he was always given a hearty welcome by his friends among the old-timers and by those who had come to know him in more recent years. He was a man of altogether unusual personality and his life was a romantic one in a very real sense.

Edmonton Bulletin, Feb. 3, 1941.

COLORFUL TRADER OF NORTH MOURNED AT FORT CHIPEWYAN

A man who lived to revel in the glories of a northern sunset, and who took more pleasure in the wild life of Canada's great northwest than in anything else the world had to offer, died Monday. He was Colin Fraser, 91, pioneer fur trader of Fort Chipewyan and resident of Canada all his life.

Mr. Fraser was born at Jasper House, in what is now known as Jasper Park, and at one time owned the site of the old Bulletin building which is now at the Exhibition Grounds. *Son of Simon Fraser,* attached to the Hudson's Bay Company for many years in the north country, the young Colin had an obsession at an early age to follow in his father's footsteps. Consequently he began his career as a freighter from Winnipeg, He then turned to buffalo hunting on the western plains, and from there went north in the fur trade industry.

One of Mr. Fraser's favorite tales dealt with the fording of streams, with a resultant soaking. Having but

the one set of clothes to one's name, Mr. Fraser would tell, it was necessary to sleep all night, with the wet clothes on, huddled as close to the campfire as possible.

Mr. Fraser worked in the north country for the past 50 years, and even up to the time of his death, took an active part in the community life of the district. He is survived by his wife, three sons, two daughters, and several grandchildren.

One of the few successful independent fur traders of his day, Mr. Fraser belonged to the Anglican church and had a great deal of respect for the Roman Catholic sisters of the Fort mission, and their works.

ONCE HOLDER OF HOMESTEAD ON JASPER AVENUE DIES IN NORTH

Colin Fraser, 92, who homesteaded on what is now Jasper Ave., and 98 st., and who was one of the city's earliest residents, died at his home in Fort Chipewyan over the week-end, according to word received by friends here Tuesday.

The former buffalo hunter, scout and fur trader was one of the oldest pioneers in the west at the time of his death. He was known throughout the northland.

He was born at Jasper House (now in Jasper Park) on Dec. 15, 1849. His life was intimately linked with the history of the northwest.

In his early days Mr. Fraser acted as a scout for the Hudson's Bay Company, going in advance of the traders to find friendly Indians with whom to trade. Later he moved to the little settlement of Edmonton where he homesteaded an

area on top of the Saskatchewan river bank now Jasper ave. east. That was in the 70's.

As Edmonton grew he moved to a site near Alex. Taylor school and about the turn of the century, as the rush of settlers in the district increased, he turned his face toward the last frontier--the northland.

Settling in Fort Chipewyan he opened a trading post which his sons still are operating.

Among his prized possessions were the original bagpipes of his uncle, Simon Fraser, discoverer of the Fraser river, who was piper to Sir George Simpson, famed governor of the Hudson's Bay Company. The pipes are more than 100 years old and on special occasions when he kept "open house" on his birthday or when distinguished visitors arrived he would bring out the bagpipes to display them.

Edmonton Bulletin, Feb. 3, 1941.

VETERAN TRADER WHO PIONEERED IN LAST GREAT WEST IS BURIED: MEMOIRS TELL TALE OF HIS LIFE.

Attended by citizens of the post and by many Indians of the district, the funeral was held Wednesday at Fort Chipewyan, on Lake Athabasca, of Colin Fraser, free trader at Chipewyan for the past 50 years, who died Monday aged 91.

Mr. Fraser was born December 15, 1849, at Jasper House, *son of Colin Fraser* who was the officer in charge of this Hudson's Bay Company fur trading post.

According to the late trader's memoirs, his father, a

rugged Scotsman and staunch Presbyterian, had been the personal servant and piper for many years to Sir George Simpson, governor of the Hudson's Bay Company in Rupert's Land. One of the younger Colin's proudest possessions was one of the two sets of bagpipes which his father had brought to this country from Scotland.

FATHER'S DEATH

After spending some years in Jasper House, the family moved to Lac Ste. Anne, where they remained until his father's death in 1867. His father was buried in the Methodist Mission cemetery, which was at the rear of the present Bank of Montreal in Edmonton. When that vicinity was subdivided into town lots, the remains were re-interred in the Edmonton cemetery.

After his father's death he moved with his mother and the younger children to Long Lake, six miles west of Edmonton, where they built a log house and farmed.

After a time he went into Edmonton and worked under Chief Factor Christie, driving his team of dogs.

In his memoirs, written in 1928 for the Hudson's Bay Company, he said: "I often went with a dog team eastward across the prairie, trading for furs and buffalo robes, and one task for which I often was selected was to outmanoeuvre the fur traders who came into the country with whiskey. On one such occasion I raced Don Noyes, a celebrated character, to Rocky Mountain House and all he could secure on his arrival was a couple of cayuses--I had everything else."

His notes also said: "I remember well the arrival of the first permanent missionaries, among them Father Lacombe and the Rev. George McDougall. Nor can I forget the terrible epidemic of smallpox and the care we took to avoid contact with the victims."

LOG HOUSE

After seven or eight years of service with the company, he took up land. He selected a site of some 180 acres and on it built a log house which stood on the site of the old police station and fire hall, now the city relief depot, on 98 street just north of Jasper avenue.

He sold this property for $10,000 and later learned that the man who handled the deal got a similar amount as his share of the transaction.

With this money he entered into a partnership with Messrs. Bannerman and Stewart of Winnipeg to trade on Lake Athabaska. He remained a free trader at Fort Chipewyan for the rest of his life.

In 1928 he came out to Edmonton and went to Fort St. James, B.C., accompanying the governor of the Hudson's Bay Company to the Fort St. James celebration.

Memo from Mrs. McQueen: "Mary Mellor's father, Colin Fraser, was named after his father, therefore, in the references given below, I shall refer to them as senior and junior.

Colin Fraser, senior, was piper to Sir George Simpson.

Simon Fraser, discoverer of the Fraser River, was a full brother of Colin Fraser, senior.

Colin Fraser, junior, was born at Jasper House. Later on, his father was transferred to Lac St. Anne, where he died. He was first buried in the old cemetery in Edmonton, but his body was subsequently exhumed and re-buried in the Edmonton cemetery.

Colin Fraser, junior, lived at Fort Chipewyan fifty-seven years.

Colin Fraser, junior, was never a partner of Bannerman of Winnipeg, as some newspapers have recently stated.

Mary says that the "Bulletin" account was more correct than the one appearing in the "Journal".

Mary has a double-cousin in Edmonton. Her married name is: Mrs. J.A. Mason
10768 - 93rd Street
Edmonton.
Telephone: 24815.

This double-cousin's maiden name was Charlotte Rowland of Battleford. This Charlotte's mother is (still living) the only living sister of Mary's father, Colin, junior.

Charlotte's father (still living) is the only living brother of Mary's mother.

*Mrs. Mary Jane Mellor (Miller) of Victoria, daughter of Colin Fraser, junior.

FLORA FRASER, NORTH PIONEER, PASSES at 91.

Pioneer of the northland, Mrs. Flora Fraser, wife of the late Colin Fraser, Fort Chipewyan, died suddenly Wednesday at the northern outpost in her 91st year. Her husband, the "grand old man of the north," pre-deceased her on February 3 last.

Daughter of John Rowland, Hudson Bay factor, Mrs. Fraser was born at Carleton, Sask., and for the past 50 years had resided at Fort Chipewyan. She made frequent visits to Edmonton, but in later years had not been able to make the strenuous journey from her northland home. She was last out in 1927.

She is survived by three sons, Fred, James and Roderick, all at Fort Chipewyan, and two daughters, Mrs. Lovisa Wylie, Fort Chipewyan, and Mrs. Mary Jane Mellor, wife of Inspector Mellor, R.C.M.P., at Victoria.

She will be buried beside her husband at Fort Chipewyan.